

From: Mark T. Stapleton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:29pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As an engineer with many years of experience using Microsoft's operating systems, from DOS forward to Windows 2000, and many years of experience using and utilizing resources on the Internet, I am strongly opposed to what I consider to be a weak and toothless settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft Corporation.

It is clear that Microsoft has violated basic business ethics, as well as the letter of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and that it's continued unregulated dominance is not in the interest of consumers and competitors. This is not my conclusion, but of the Court of Appeals. It is also clear to me personally that Microsoft continues, despite the judgement already passed down, to use practices that are unfair and unethical. Web sites built with Microsoft applications don't work with Netscape Navigator and other Internet browser software. The Windows ME and Windows XP platforms released since the judgement both compromise personal security on the Web by design, not by accident or by error.

A failure to act more strongly than currently planned will simply encourage this irresponsible behemoth to continue making changes to products which are more self-serving than useful, and more in it's own interest than in the public interest or in the interest of the United States government. Please don't be satisfied to let things stand as is. You would be doing the entire country, and indeed the world, a big disfavor.

Sincerely,
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